



Member Alert: HHS Reorganization

In follow up from our [previous alert](#) about the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [reorganization](#), announced in late March, we wanted to provide additional information. As a result of the reorganization and an HHS-wide reduction in force, 1,200 NIH employees were fired, and functions relating to procurement, grant management, and policy will be centralized in the Office of the Director. Further, five NIH institute directors were fired, including Dr. Bianchi of NICHD. As you know, NICHD funds the majority of non-cancer women's health research. With the swearing in of NIH Director Bhattacharya, we expect new NIH leadership and potential further restructuring, but there is no additional public information about further changes to NIH staffing and structure.

At this critical time, it is important for AUGS to continue to emphasize the need for investment in research on women's chronic conditions. As you are aware, women comprise 50% of the population, so it is essential to understand and develop new methods of preventing and treating conditions that affect women. Despite this, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [found](#) that less than 9% of NIH grant funding goes towards women's health research.

AUGS members – as providers and healthcare professionals who treat and interact with patients – are the best messengers to advocate for women's health research and to share patient stories to improve care.

Calls to Action:

Volunteer to be a Reviewer: The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) reviews three quarters of all NIH applications and virtually all submitted R01s. Having an increased presence of Urogynecologists serving as reviewers will ensure the development of a more comprehensive knowledge base on Urogynecologic conditions.

Share Your Story: Has your research been impacted by recent legislative changes? The Women First Research Coalition (WFRC) is collecting information on research that has been terminated and its implications. Please submit your story via this [google form](#). Please note that we are asking

you to include your name and contact information in case we have any follow up questions. This information will be deidentified before we use it in any advocacy.

[Participate in Future Calls to Action:](#) Alerts will be distributed via email and updated at on the AUGS website.

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